

Grants awarded to 19 Indiana High Schools

DWD awarded \$2,358,619 in federal funds to 19 Indiana high schools and consortiums to improve academic achievement and increase the development of skills for high-skill/high demand/high-wage occupations.

The Carl D. Perkins Technology Preparation Act funds will help schools design career pathways that help students easily transition from high school to post-secondary options through Career Majors.

Career Majors focuses on combining academic and technical standards organized around a broad career area and building connections between education, business, labor, and community-based organizations.

If you would like to be added to our email list or would like to share ideas for future Developments topics, please contact dwieland@dwd.state.in.us.

Employment Trends

June Unemployment Rate

Indiana's non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for June was 4.6 percent. This is one and nine tenths of a percentage point below the national rate of 6.5 percent.

Just over 3 million Hoosiers were employed during May.

Indiana's June unemployment rate was lower than Michigan, 7.4 percent; Ohio, 6.5 percent; Illinois, 6.6 percent; and Kentucky at 5.9 percent.

July Unemployment Insurance Stats

Number of UI Claims Filed:

Week of 7-5-03	74,865
Week of 7-12-03	86,950
Week of 7-19-03	84,847
Week of 7-26-03	73,463

JOBS Facts

Job Opportunities and Business Services

The Department of Workforce Development will use pre-assessment tools to help workers identify what their career interests are, in an effort to lead Hoosiers to the career that best suits them.

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Developments

HOOSIER WORKERS & LIFELONG LEARNING ONLINE NEWS

Breaking News

12,000 Hoosiers eligible for insurance plan

Approximately 12,000 Indiana workers who lost their jobs or benefits are now eligible for federal assistance to help buy a new private health insurance plan. Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield is offering the Anthem Blue Access TAA plan to eligible Hoosiers. It is intended to help steel workers and others who have lost jobs as a result of foreign competition as well as retirees who no longer have benefits because their company pension plans were underfunded.

The Federal Trade Adjustment Assistance Act provides a federal tax credit equal to 65 percent of the amount paid by the eligible individual for coverage for themselves and qualifying family members. DWD will transmit daily a list of potential eligible candidates to the Health Coverage Tax Credit Program, which will notify people by mail of their eligibility.

DWD staff receive WorkKeys training

As part of the Job Opportunity and Business Services (JOBS) initiative, DWD is recruiting employers who want to assess the skill levels of their employees and potential job seekers. Assessments are related to either community-wide or job specific profiles. DWD staff members recently attended a WorkKeys Assessment Training in order to learn more about the assessment tests and how to proctor examinations. There is now a knowledgeable assessor at each WorkOne location across the state.

The WorkKeys system consists of profiling (job analysis) to determine the skill requirements of jobs, skill assessment to determine the current skills of individuals, and instructional support to help educators and trainers as they assist learners in improving their skills. These components are linked together with management information and reporting services.

If you are interested in learning more about WorkKeys contact Brett Wineinger at (317) 233-5514 or email him at bwineinger@dwd.state.in.us

Indiana Robotics competition held at Lawrence North H.S.

The Indiana Robotics Invitational (IRI) hosted 46 Teams from across the country including 16 teams from Indiana high schools. The competition held at Lawrence North High school in Indianapolis last month teams professionals and young people to solve an engineering design problem in an intense and competitive way. The competition helps foster the high-tech skills Indiana's future workforce will need.

The IRI is an offshoot of the national FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Competition. The competitions hopefully inspire the next generation to learn about science and technology. The robots used in the IRI event were originally developed for the 2003 FIRST competition. Each team was given only six weeks to build a unique working robot.

Designing, programming, building and operating the robots require physics and calculus skills beyond those taught at the high school level. Corporate partners such as Delphi Delco Electronics systems, Allison Transmission and Rolls Royce lend their technical expertise to help the students learn and apply the needed skills. The average cost per team is more than \$5,000 so corporate sponsorship is critical. Companies from around the state have contributed significant donations to finance the teams. For more information, visit www.indianafirst.org